



SAFETY
AWARDS
2024

Legacy Award Andreas Tanzer

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and watch; be part of
the industry.”**

— Andreas Tanzer

Trailblazer’s Legacy of Safety Leadership Sets the Standard for Waterpark Industry

Water has always been a recurring theme throughout Andreas Tanzer’s life. As the son of master sailboat builder Johann Tanzer, Tanzer inherited his father’s passion for facilitating fun in the water. Over a 38-year career, he has become a leading figure in professional water-ride design and the development of industry standards and safety regulations for the waterpark industry.

Tanzer, who recently retired as Director of Research, Designs and Standards with ProSlide Technology Inc. in Ottawa and continues to provide consulting services to the amusement and waterpark industry as president of AJT Consulting Ltd., is the recipient of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority’s (TSSA) Legacy Award for 2024.

TSSA’s annual Safety Awards recognize individuals and organizations that go beyond their regular call of duty to improve safety outcomes for Ontarians. The Legacy Award, in particular, is given to those with a longstanding commitment to safety conscientiousness in their field.

The award is the culmination of an illustrious career spanning almost four decades. “I was completely surprised and humbled,” said Tanzer, who had no idea he had been nominated for the award.

Tanzer’s role in ProSlide focused primarily on safety and ensuring that the industry has and uses the best practices available. “As I am part of the TSSA Amusement Devices Advisory Board and serving as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F24’s Vice Chair on Amusement Rides and Devices, it is my obligation and goal to ensure the safety of the amusement industry,” he said.

Tanzer was conferred the Legacy Award for his safety contributions to the waterpark industry and leadership. He has been instrumental in creating industry standards and chairing the ASTM F24 committee’s task group for water slides. His significant efforts have led to the establishment of the internationally recognized ASTM F2376 Standard Practice for Classification, Design, Manufacture, Construction, and Operation of Water Slide Systems in 2006.

Currently the ASTM F24 Vice-Chair on Amusement Rides and Devices, Tanzer remains deeply involved in the committee’s task group for water slides and aquatic play structures. His pioneering work in standards development and innovative water ride design has earned him numerous accolades. Andreas received the WWA Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award in 2009 and was presented with the 2015 Kelly Ogle Memorial Award for his work on ensuring the safety of the waterpark industry.

Tanzer said working with amusement safety professionals from around the world inspires him to go above and beyond to improve safety. “This gives me a greater sense of how the industry strives to be and stay safe; this also helps motivate me,” he said.

Tanzer finds great satisfaction in the collaborative efforts that go into developing, designing, engineering and installing safe rides and seeing how others share the same passion and care to ensure amusement ride safety. Meeting people like park operators, maintenance personnel and the general public at various amusement parks and witnessing how the work behind the scenes culminates in riders’ laughter and enjoyment is also a key motivator. “This drives me to keep the rides safe and protect everyone who uses them,” said Tanzer.

For safety professionals and organizations looking to strengthen their safety leadership and practice in the amusement industry, Tanzer advises them to get involved with the industry and standards organizations. “Don’t stand by and watch; be part of the industry.”

He also urged organizations and safety professionals to educate themselves by connecting with new professionals and industry veterans. “Once you make connections and start understanding how standards, organizations and inspectors work and what standards they follow, you will be in a much better position to make your organization, park or amusement facility safer and more effective.”